



# Hands on Habitat

## State of Florida

### What Are the Problems?

- **Estuaries** Sixty thousand wetland acres have been lost to dredging and filling.
- **Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds** Since the 1950s, Florida has lost about 2 million acres of seagrass.
- **Coastal development** Since 1990, Florida's population has increased by 24%.

### Background

Florida's salt marshes, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests provide productive and diverse habitats for finfish, shellfish, and other wildlife. Seventy percent of commercial and recreational fish species rely on the health of Florida's waters and estuaries. In response to growing human pressures and influences, restoration needs in Florida are greater than ever.

### What We Do

- Restore mangrove forests
- Remove invasive species
- Establish wetland buffers
- Restore native oyster populations
- Replace or modify culverts
- Soften shorelines by replacing man-made structures with more natural slopes and vegetation
- Restore SAV beds
- Improve storm water management
- Educate communities about the value of habitat and restoration

### How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships with Florida's public, private, and non-profit organizations. Our projects continually demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of locally based habitat conservation in Florida.



### Our Accomplishments

Since 1996, we have:

- Awarded almost \$5 million and leveraged more than \$9.9 million
- Managed more than \$7 million in Congressionally directed funds
- Funded 215 projects
- Completed 121 projects
- Restored more than 6,100 acres of coastal habitat
- Engaged roughly 32,000 volunteers for more than 118,000 service hours through partner-led activities

### Our Partners

NOAA works with 219 local, private, and public partners in Florida, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Pinellas County, Tampa Bay Watch, academic institutions, and a variety of other public and private organizations.

### Our Focus

**Reverse damages to marine and estuarine habitats from urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural activities along Florida's coastline**

### Contact

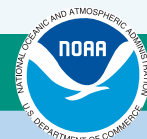
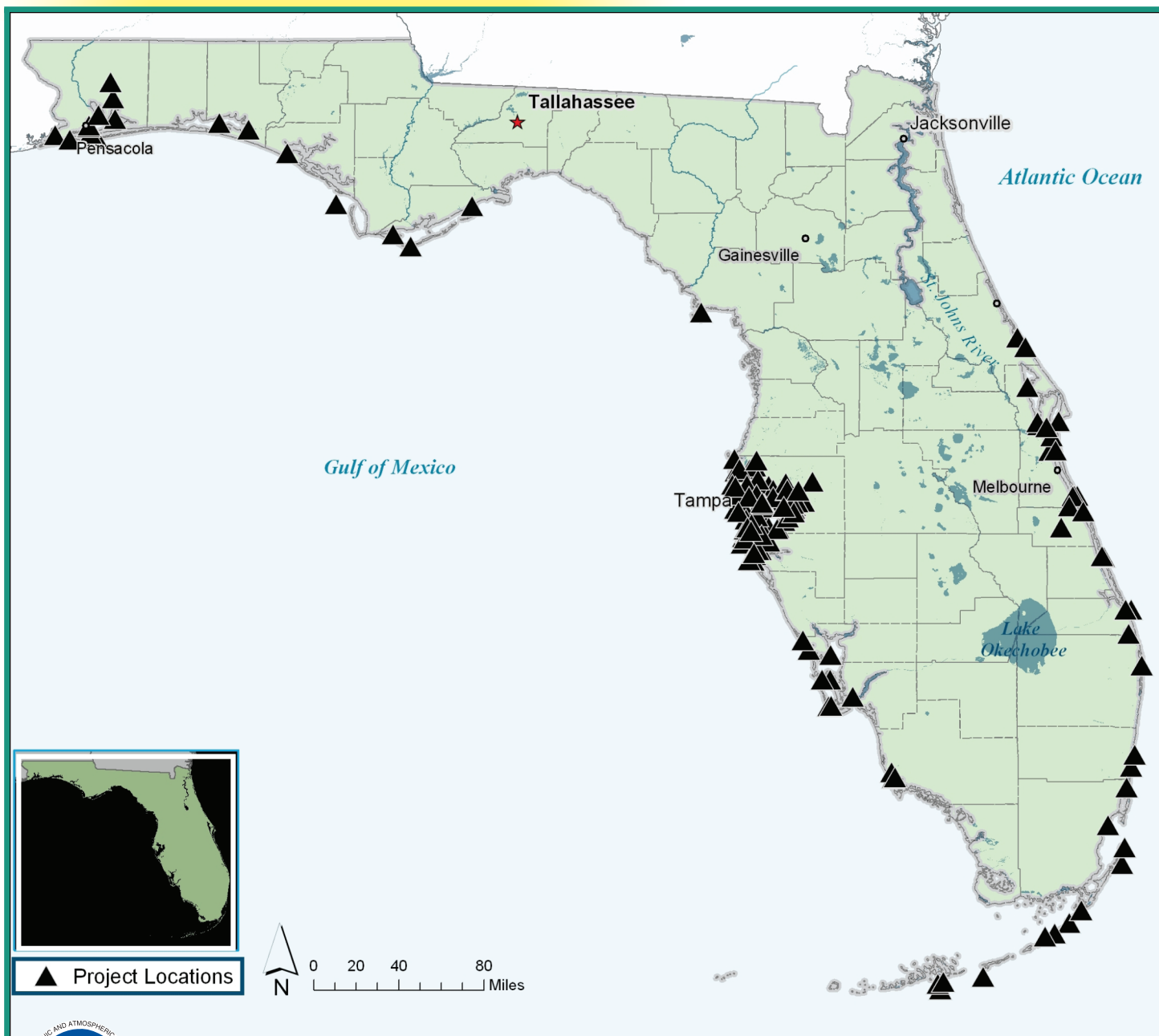
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# NOAA CRP: Celebrating 10 Years of Coastal Restoration

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## SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

**Charlotte Harbor Post Hurricane Mangrove Restoration, Charlotte County**

**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge Mangrove Recovery, Sanibel Island**

**F.I.S.H. Preserve Habitat Restoration, Cortez**

**Florida Bay Scallop Restoration, Lee County**

**Baynanza Marine Debris Removal Project, Miami-Dade County**

**Mosquito Lagoon Intertidal Oyster Restoration, Volusia County**

**Newman Branch Creek Habitat Restoration, Apollo Beach**

**Project GreenShores Phase II, Pensacola Bay**

**Robinson Preserve Tidal Lagoon Restoration, Bradenton**

**Sebastian River Mangrove Wetland Restoration, Orchid**

**St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Marsh Restoration, Apalachicola**